

I. Listing of Claims:

CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A steering wheel having a central hub connected by at least one spoke to a rim, the steering wheel comprising at least one heat pipe within the rim, the heat pipe being thermally isolated from any external cooling arrangement that includes a heat exchanger, the heat pipe being configured to transfer heat from a first region of the rim to another region of the rim solely under function of the heat pipe, the heat pipe comprising an elongated metal tube containing an elongated wick extending from one end of the metal tube to the other end of the metal tube, the metal tube containing a volatile liquid and having an internal pressure substantially below atmospheric pressure where both the one end and the other end of the metal tube being sealed, the metal tube and the wick cooperatively configured to extend from an upper-most region of the rim to a lower region of the rim to transfer heat between the upper-most and lower regions of the rim and to move the volatile liquid therebetween.

2. (Currently Amended) A steering wheel according to Claim 1, wherein the rim comprises a single heat pipe with the wick contained therein, the single heat pipe and the wick each extending around substantially the entire extent of the rim including from the upper-most region of the rim to a lower-most region of the rim.

3. (Original) A steering wheel according to Claim 2, wherein the heat pipe has a substantially circular configuration.

4. (Currently Amended) A steering wheel according to Claim 1, wherein the rim comprises two heat pipes and two wicks where each of the two heat pipes contains one of the two wicks, each ~~said heat pipe~~ of the two heat pipes and the corresponding wick extending around approximately half of the circumferentially extent of the rim from the upper-most region to a lower-most region of the rim.

5. (Currently Amended) A steering wheel according to Claim 4, wherein each of the two heat pipes has a substantially semi-circular configuration.

6. (Previously Presented) A steering wheel according to Claim 4, wherein the two heat pipes are thermally connected to one another.

7. (Previously Presented) A steering wheel according to Claim 1, wherein the heat pipe is provided with or connected to a heater.

8. (Previously Presented) A steering wheel according to Claim 7, wherein the heater comprises an electrical heating element.

9. (Previously Presented) A steering wheel according to Claim 1, wherein the heat pipe is located only in the rim of the steering wheel.